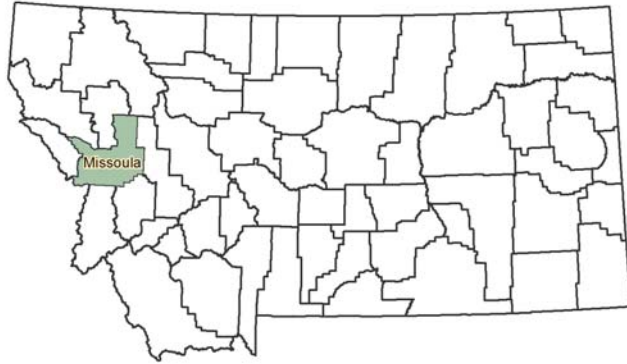


Missoula County Environmental Health Assessment Synopsis

Oct

Total County Population: 95,802¹
Non-Hispanic White: 93.1%
American Indian: 3.4%
Hispanic/Latino Origin: 1.6%
Asian: 1.0%
Other: .9%



Largest Community: Missoula
Lead Agency: Missoula City
Advisory Group: Environmental Health Advisory Committee (EHAC)

Environmental Health Definition: Environmental Health involves the effects on human physical and mental health from anything in the natural and manmade environment.

Key Assessment Tools: The University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research administered a random-digit dial phone survey to county residents. A total of 516 phone interviews were completed. Additionally, the Health Department conducted 15 key informant interviews, two facilitated group discussions, and five focus group meetings to gain a deeper understanding of the concerns identified by citizens through the survey.

Top 7 Environmental Health Topics of Concern From 516 Survey Responses

1. Outdoor Air Quality - from vehicle emissions
2. Pollutants from Milltown Dam - if not cleaned up
3. Pollutants from Milltown Dam - from clean up activities
4. Outdoor Air Quality - from industry
5. Surface Water - safe from pollution for recreation
6. Neighborhood design affects on mental health
7. Increased likelihood of respiratory diseases like asthma

Top 4 Environmental Health Priorities Recommended by the EHAC

1. Vehicle (Transportation) Emissions
2. Indoor Environment
3. Food Safety and Nutrition
4. Neighborhood (Community Design)

Note: Drinking Water Quality and Surface Water Quality are important issues that are, and will continue to be, addressed by Missoula's Water Quality District.

Some Recommended Action Steps

1. Refer vehicle emissions item to the Air Quality Advisory Council for in-depth discussion.
2. Work with other partners and planners in a variety of ways to reduce vehicle miles.
3. Implement an indoor air education campaign focusing on all possible contaminants (radon, mold, tobacco smoke, asbestos, and other chemicals found in homes or workplaces).
4. Partner with other groups working on food issues to promote healthy eating.

¹ 2000 U.S. Census